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FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

Award Winning Documentary PLOT FOR PEACE to screen at the United Nations on May 26th in celebration of the United Nations World Africa Week, and Africa Day, May 25, 2015.

Johannesburg, 25 May 2015. The Ichikowitz Family Foundation is proud to announce that one of its award winning documentaries, PLOT FOR PEACE will be screened on May 26th to audiences of UN Ambassadors, stakeholders and invited members of the public, in celebration of all efforts made by African leaders to secure peace in Southern Africa during the late 1980s.

The critically acclaimed PLOT FOR PEACE tells the untold story of the negotiations, visionary leadership and parallel diplomacy that led to the signing of the Brazzaville Accord in 1988, a key milestone in speeding up the release of Mandela and the ultimate demise of apartheid.

The United Nations screening is a historic event given that the Ambassadors from the countries involved in the signing of the 1988 Brazzaville Protocol will be present: Angola, Cuba, South Africa, Mozambique and the Republic of Congo.

The United Nations played a key behind-the-scenes role in supporting these major parties in the conflict and ultimately the peace deal was signed before the UN Secretary General in New York on 22 December 1988. It was called the Tripartite Agreement, involving Angola, Cuba, and South Africa, and paved the way for the whole of Southern Africa find a peaceful transition to democracy.

The documentary was produced by Emmy award winning Mandy Jacobson of the African Oral History, an ambitious heritage initiative funded by the Ichikowitz Family Foundation. The film will soon be released on Netflix.

Ivor Ichikowitz, Chairman of the Ichikowitz Family Foundation says:

“It’s an important moment in international arena to reflect on how disputes can be resolved through building trust, through peaceful negotiations and through dialogue. We salute President Sassou-Nguesso efforts in mediating the current conflicts in Central Africa and in using the lessons learned from the past to advance the peaceful resolution of disputes.

“Such commemorations reinforce the critical role of the United Nations and allow us all to explore how we may practically advance towards greater peace and prosperity across the globe.”

PLOT FOR PEACE features interviews with key figures of the time, including H.E. Denis Sassou-N’Gusso, President of the Republic of Congo, the former First Lady of South Africa, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela; former Mozambique president, Joaquim Chisanno, former South African foreign minister, Pik Botha, and Jean-Yves Ollivier, the French businessman

who played a behind the scenes role in facilitating the signing of the 1988 Brazzaville Protocol, a key precursor to peace in Southern Africa.

The United Nations screening marks a successful global distribution circuit for PLOT FOR PEACE, having been released theatrically in the USA, UK, France, Spain, Japan and South Africa during 2014. It has garnered over 8 international awards.

It is an honour for the Ichikowitz Family Foundation that PLOT FOR PEACE will now form part of the United Nations historic record and archive.

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About the Ichikowitz Family Foundation

A key mandate of the Ichikowitz Family Foundation is to spread the good news about Africa by promoting understanding of our complex history and building confidence among Africans through innovative storytelling and entrepreneurship.

The Foundation's African Oral History Archive (AOHA) initiative aims to safeguard Africa's dynamic heritage for future generations. In a global effort, over 150 interviews have been recorded, giving unprecedented access to all those who have been instrumental in shaping South Africa's modern history. The Archive charts the incremental changes, revolutions, setbacks, and victories in Africa's complex history and brings these stories to audiences across the globe. Subscribing to best journalistic practice, AOHA adopts no single point of view; but rather, provides the raw material for open story telling, the hallmark of democratic societies.

What is perhaps most striking about the story of **PLOT FOR PEACE**, is that individual agency played such a key role in putting together the pieces of a complex puzzle, in a way that sovereign governments were unable to do, and create the environment for peace to be negotiated. Jean Yves Ollivier had no official status; he represented nobody but himself; he signed no agreements with anybody; he paid for much of it out of his own pocket; and took no credit for setting in motion an amazing sequence of events. In the end, he was left standing alone on the tarmac of the Maputo Airport, forgotten in the heat of the prisoner-swap moment. It is a unique phenomenon in modern history.

About the Brazzaville Protocol and the UN Tripartite Agreement, 1988

The Brazzaville Protocol concluded the terms for the end of the long war in Angola, and the withdrawal of the South African Defence Force and Cuban troops from Angola. It enabled the implementation United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibia that resulted in Namibia achieving independence. .

The restoration of peace in the region became a catalyst for a series of other milestone political events, which included the release of Nelson Mandela and the unbanning of previously proscribed political organisations. The Brazzaville Protocol was, in essence, the turning point, which set in motion the events that led to a new democratic dispensation for South Africa and stability in Southern Africa

For more information

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